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ABSTRACT

This resource handbook provides facts about gangs in Austin (Texas) and suggests ways parents and the community can work to reduce the city's gang problem. Criminal street gangs are becoming one of the most serious crime problems in Texas today, with 38 major cities reporting the presence of gangs. Texas gangs are defined as social, delinquent, and violent, and specific information is given about the gang affiliations in Austin. The city has 10 different gangs (sets), each associated with 1 of 4 gang nations. Steps parents can take, including how to recognize if one's child is a gang member, are described. The chapters are: (1) "Introduction"; (2) "How Gangs Function"; (3) "Signs of Gang Membership"; and (4) "What You Need To Know about Graffiti." Appendixes present information about gang identifiers, a list of gang slang and terminology, and resources to call for further information or help. (SLD)

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AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT
GANG SUPPRESSION UNIT
RESOURCE HANDBOOK

Austin's Gang Enigma

• BREAKING THE CODE •

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APD GANG SUPPRESSION UNIT HISTORY, MISSION AND ORGANIZATION

In 1993, Austin experienced a dramatic increase in gang related crimes. Top level Austin Police Department (APD) personnel decided that immediate action was necessary. To combat this problem, APD combined forces of the Hispanic Crimes Unit and the Street Crimes Unit into the new Gang Suppression Unit. APD administrators decided that the Gang Unit should be a part of the Patrol Services Division to centralize the efforts of APD in combating violence on the streets. In the Fall of 1993 the citizens of Austin, Texas had a new line of defense against the ever increasing wave of violence which had been inundating the city.

The primary mission of the APD Gang Suppression Unit is to improve public safety through the interdiction of street gang activity by employing a proactive response to victim oriented criminal activity. In its daily contention with gang activity the Gang Unit investigates cases involving gang members' specific crimes against persons and property. Working hand in hand with the Patrol, Criminal Investigations Service Bureau, Organized Crime Division and Narcotics Division, along with the many concerned citizens in the community; the Gang Suppression Unit has created a united front in the war on gang violence.

In its daily operations, the Gang Unit investigates all cases involving gang related activity. Procedural activities include taking statements and confessions, conducting interrogations, photo lineups, polygraphs, use of confidential informants, obtaining and executing warrants and various other investigative tactics. The Gang Unit maximizes man power by including the uniform officer's division and personnel from surrounding local, state and federal agencies.

In its organization, the Gang Suppression Unit is under the command of the Section Lieutenant, who reports to the Captain of the Organized Crime Division. There are three Sergeants, two Detectives and twelve Senior Police Officers assigned to the Gang Suppression Unit, Patrol Services Division. In addition, the unit has two federal agents assigned to the Gang Unit to assist with case investigations.

The information contained in this handbook is current as of its publication date. Any questions regarding this handbook should be directed to the Gang Suppression Unit of the Austin Police Department. We wish to thank the following people, agencies and companies for their generous support and information which made this handbook possible:

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INTRODUCTION

Criminal street gangs are fast becoming one of the most serious crime problems in Texas today. The gang problem in Texas is highly complex, comprising a myriad of gangs and various levels of gang activity and involvement; and there are even diversified definitions of what constitutes a gang which makes it difficult for law enforcement agencies to effectively address the gang problem. Of the major cities in Texas, thirty-eight cities have reported the presence of gangs and this "presence" continues to expand.

As Austin, Texas grows in size, so will its gang-related problems. During the last three years (1994-1996), there were over 5,000 gang-related crimes in the City of Austin which consisted of over 1,800 Indexed Crimes. Indexed crimes include such major offenses as murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. With just under 200 different identified gangs, comprising over 3,000 documented gang members, the City of Austin and its community ***must*** take action against gang violence.

Violence is inherent in gang activity. Anybody in the area is fair game, including men, women and children. Once, victims of gang violence were rival gang members, now they are often innocent bystanders killed or injured by stray bullets.

Gangs are recruiting new members everyday, and those members are becoming younger and younger. There will be more juvenile gang members, and some will be fourth-generation gang members. Members will stay with the gangs for longer periods of time and many gang members are, or will become career criminals.

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FUTURE GANG TRENDS
The number of violent crimes attributed to gangs will increase
Juvenile gang members will commit more crimes due to lenient juvenile crime laws
Gangs will continue to be involved in narcotics
Gangs will learn the benefits of being a structured gang and some will evolve into organized crime groups
Gang members will outnumber law enforcement resources
There will be more gang members on probation and parole than ever before

Fighting crime and dealing with violent gang members is best left to experts trained to handle dangerous situations. However, everyone has the responsibility to educate themselves and overcome apathy and fear. Everyone must work toward a solution to the gang problem.

Definition of a Gang

"Criminal Street Gang" means: Three or more persons having a common identifying sign or symbol or an identifiable leadership who continuously or regularly associate in the commission of criminal activities.

What is a Gang?

Street gangs in Austin can be described as a group of individuals who may or may not claim control over a certain territory in the community and engage, either individually or collectively, in violent or other forms of illegal behavior. However, one of the simplest and most functional definitions is that a gang is a group of people who form an allegiance for a common purpose and engage in violent, unlawful or criminal activity.

Street gangs are very fluid in nature, and while it is fairly easy to develop intelligence information about them, many times the information is outdated almost before it is disseminated to the proper individuals. The key to gaining knowledge and accurate intelligence information is by cooperation and sharing of information with school authorities, police officials (local, county and state), government administrators and the community. We all must band together as a whole, put aside our individual differences, and work to make Austin a better place for us.

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Three Types of Gangs

THE SOCIAL GANG

A relatively permanent group that hangs out at a specific location, such as a store or street corner. Members develop a sense of comradeship and often engage in organized group activities, including dancing, discussions and athletic events. The group stays together because of mutual attraction among its members rather than the need for protection or esteem. The general feeling is that the group will provide the means for a better, more enjoyable life and that group activities are superior to individual activities.

The social gang is not likely to participate in serious delinquent activity and will engage in physical violence only if members are attacked and retaliation is unavoidable. Its members include the most stable youths in the neighborhood—those who have the closest association with the norms and values of society in general.

THE DELINQUENT GANG

A cohesive group organized around the principle of monetary gain from delinquent activities. Its members depend on one another to carry out planned activities and to provide help if necessary. The leader who emerges is usually the most competent at stealing and is an excellent organizer and planner.

Members of this type of gang are emotionally stable and, therefore, able to organize their time and efforts for criminal activity. Gang activity is viewed as a way of getting ahead in the world. The delinquent gang member accepts the goals of the larger society, such as wealth, success and power; but rejects the legitimate means available for attaining them. However, delinquent gang membership is not viewed as a stepping stone to adult criminal behavior. It exists to satisfy present needs.

THE VIOLENT GANG

Organized to obtain the emotional gratification that violent activities can bring to youths. In addition to building arsenals, members spend their time planning and carrying out violent acts.

Leaders of violent gangs tend to be emotionally unstable. They have a need to control and direct others. Both leaders and followers tend to overestimate the importance, size and power of their group. The structure of violent gangs is constantly changing. Allies one day can become enemies the next day. The violent gang is also identified by inner-group violence. This violence can be verbal in nature (one member insulting another); or it can be physical, hostile and aggressive in nature (one member beating another). Violent gangs appear to emerge almost spontaneously. They provide a vehicle for violent, hostile youths to act out their aggressions and personal problems. Usually before a youth can join this gang, prospective members must "prove their courage" or engage in a complex initiation rite which entails physical pain.

Gang Nation versus Gang Set

Many gangs adopt names that have significance when related to their neighborhoods. Gangs will often name themselves after street names, hills, valleys, housing projects and regional names. The majority of gang names include a surname which indicates that gang's allegiance to a particular gang nation. For this reason, the term "gang set" is usually utilized rather than "gang." Gang sets are smaller, localized versions of a gang nation. Of the gang sets documented by the Austin Police Department Gang Suppression Unit, almost all of them identify with the four major gang nations.

THE FOUR MAJOR GANG NATIONS	
CRIPS	Los Angeles, California oriented
BLOODS	Los Angeles, California oriented
FOLK NATION	Chicago, Illinois oriented
PEOPLE NATION	Chicago, Illinois oriented

*NOTE: Gangs will sometimes change affiliations. It must always be remembered that gangs are fluid in nature and changes occur almost daily.

The following chart demonstrates the relationship of a gang nation and a gang set.

BLOODS	CRIPS	FOLK NATION	PEOPLE NATION
East Side Bloods	South Side Crips	Los Vatos	Latin Hoodlums
No-name Street Bloods	Anyname Street Crips	Norte Chulos	Desperados
Southeast Village Bloods	Gangster Crips		

As one can see from the chart above, there are ten different gangs (Sets), all associated with one of the four major gang nations. Each set is an individual gang, comprising a leader or leaders; and each different set may or may not associate within its own gang nation "grouping." For example, the No-name Street Bloods may or may not get along with the East Side Bloods. Although they are all "Bloods," they still have their own differences and "territories."

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HOW GANGS FUNCTION

Gangs thrive on intimidation and notoriety. They often find violence glamorous and a necessity in order to maintain individual and gang status. Like most groups, street gangs depend upon both individual and group participation. Unlike legitimate groups or organizations, street gangs generally do not have an identified leader. The person who is the toughest, has the guns, or has the most money may emerge as the leader, but this status is generally short-lived.

Gang Activity - What Gangs Do

Many gang activities are consistent with those engaged in by a large portion of society. But, when a gang member is involved in a weekend party, fund-raising car wash, or even a family or neighborhood picnic, the potential for violence and criminal activity is far greater than for any other group of people. Gang members seek confrontations with rivals. The resulting violence often claims innocent victims. Gang violence varies from individual assaults to drive by shootings. Some gangs are involved in the sale of drugs, extortion, robberies, motor vehicle thefts, or other criminal activity for monetary gain. While gang violence and criminal activity often make headlines, vandalism in the form of graffiti and the wanton destruction of public and private property is often done in the furtherance of the gang's reputation. Abandoned houses are a favorite target for vandalism but even occupied houses do not escape. Local businesses suffer not only from property damage and graffiti, but also from loss of customers and employees.

Of greater concern is the inherent violence associated with gang graffiti. Gang members use graffiti to mark their gang's "turf" or "territory." They also use it to advertise the gang's status or power and to declare their own allegiance to the gang. When a neighborhood is marked with graffiti indicating territorial dominance, the entire area and its inhabitants become targets for violence.

Anyone on the street or in his home is fair game for drive-by attacks by rival gang members. A rival gang identifies everyone in the neighborhood as a potential threat. Consequently, innocent residents are often subjected to gang violence by the mere presence of graffiti in their neighborhood.

Gangs attempt to instill fear, intimidating rivals and citizens alike. The gang's power grows through use of fear and intimidation. This can be countered by citizen action groups such as Neighborhood Watch. A neighborhood that is united and dedicated in a spirit of cooperation toward stopping crime and violence will greatly hamper the gang's effort to flourish.

When incidents occur, cooperate with authorities. Your help and cooperation may prevent others from becoming victims of gang violence. Information concerning gang crimes, wanted suspects, or any violent gang activity should be reported to the police.

Hispanic Gangs

In the early 1980s Austin began to see criminal street gangs. The first incidents covered by the media included a shooting at Fifth street and Congress avenue and another that involved the death of a teenager during a gang initiation. Both incidents involved Hispanic males and Hispanic gangs. Blacks and Whites had not yet begun widespread involvement in gang activity.

Hispanic gangs are not new to the United States. Emerging in the early 1940s, some Hispanics in southern California, mainly the city of Los Angeles, grouped together and became known as the "Zoot Suitors." They wore oversized suits, large hats and long pocket-chain watches. A highlighted incident, the Zoot Suit Riot of the early 1940s, began when sailors attacked the Zoot Suitors. After the riot, Zoot Suitors banned together in jail for protection; and upon their release, they stayed in their cliques. This marked the beginning of today's street and prison gangs. These gangs continue to outnumber gangs of other races. They have also become extremely organized and violent committing such heinous crimes as contract murders, drive-by killings, murders in prisons and other criminal activities including dealing drugs and property crimes.

Primarily, gangs wish to represent themselves as warriors or defenders of their neighborhood, their turf. However, the past proves that heroics and justice are not their primary activities. In a twisted way, they do have a strong sense of family religion. They carry guns, knives, drugs, and crucifixes. Gang loyalty is not definite. Interviews with incarcerated gang members reveal that their "homeboys" forget them and their families. They do not realize that the makeup of the gang is of a criminal nature.

The 1990s has seen younger and more violent gang members. This increase is due to a breakdown in the family unit, as well as laws and punishments for juveniles. It appears that the film, music and apparel industries benefit from and even encourage gang interest, therefore keeping the gang image visible. Liquor and beer companies also profit from gang activities. Clothing and Colors are strong identifiers. Hand signs and graffiti are major forms of gang communication and rival challenges. They also have their own terminology. Be aware that many Hispanic gang members may not speak or understand the Spanish language, even though much of the gang language originates from or sounds Spanish.

Black Gangs

Black gangs and their 'gang style' were imported from Los Angeles to other cities in the late 1970s and the early 1980s Black gangs tend to align themselves with either the Crips or Bloods gangs. Black gangs tend to form in "sets" based on a locality and name their set is using and include "Crips" or "Bloods" as their set's surname (i.e., Rolling 60's Crips, Insane Gangsta Crips etc...). Black gangs coexist in the same territories as Hispanic gangs, as many share residences in low income housing or in minority neighborhoods. Black gangs typically do not fight across ethnic boundaries as their loyalty is to their particular set and homeboys, not necessarily "the barrio" in which they live.

Hispanic gangs primarily focus on the barrio or neighborhood in which they live, and more recently have taken on selling and transporting drugs. Black gangs on the other hand completely focus on making BIG MONEY with a strong loyalty to their "set." The major motivation in joining a black gang is to make a lot of money, have nice things, and gain status in the "hood." There are few Black members in Hispanic gangs; however, there is a recent trend in Hispanics and Whites joining Black gangs. The traditional "jumping in" routine does not take place in black gangs. It is considered more important to test a prospective member's ability to sell drugs and assess their level of trust and commitment to the gang. Black gangs usually accept new recruits after using them in drug deals, robberies or in a drive-by, etc...

Black gangs usually do not use the drugs in which they sell, namely crack cocaine and heroin. Black gangs usually drink beer and wine and smoke marijuana. Using any other type of drugs is considered a hindrance to selling drugs for a profit. Other means of money-making include robberies of persons or cars (car-jackings) and prostitution. Usually, the girls used for prostitution are not gang members themselves, but rather neighborhood girls who volunteer their services just to have an "in" with an O.G. (Original Gangsta) for drugs, protection or both. Black gang members often times have relatives that are strung out on crack or heroin, and it is customary for a gang set not to sell drugs to a member's relative out of respect.

Black gangs have historically had very little organization. Leaders commonly emerge from members that have connections to organized crime, a reputation as a tried and true gangster, or because of their older more experienced age (an O.G.). Black gangs do not operate with the same formal structure as seen in Hispanic gangs. For this reason, it has been difficult for law enforcement agencies to bring down a Black gang by targeting their leader. The influential members, or "shot callers," have influence over the younger gang members and use them to sell narcotics and commit violent acts on rival gangs. Due to increasing connections with organized crime and the ability to obtain large quantities of narcotics from them, Black gangs are assuming a more vertical hierarchical organizational structure. The sole purpose for this transformation is to maximize profits effectively and efficiently by obtaining a larger customer base and assuming or "taking over" more territory. Enlarging a gang's territory also has the benefit of enhancing the potential recruitment pool.

Taking over larger territory requires strong centralized leadership with clear hierarchy or the gang could be reduced by a more coordinated effort on behalf of a rival gang. Organization is now being seen as a way of not only surviving, but the only real way to profit. Organizational structure only appears to work as long as it is in line with the loyalty of gang sets within the enlarged gang nation. The ultimate test of loyalty comes when a gang member is arrested. If a member's homeboy refuses to snitch, either out of loyalty or fear of retaliation, the organization is considered a strong profit-oriented structure.

Black gangs, as well as most other gangs, do not spend the majority of their time "gang-banging." Gang members usually gather at a designated place or a certain member's home to just "kick-it" (hangout), smoke weed, drink alcohol or talk with girls. Nonetheless, a major "routine" of Black gangs is to sell drugs. This is usually done in full force during the middle of the night and early morning hours in open air markets such as street corners or the gang's hangout, as well as, actual crack houses. Buyers usually establish an identified area where set members "hang," and approach them for a buy. It is also common practice for drug dealers to accommodate buyers who fear they will be easily noticed in a drug area by delivering the drugs to them at their home or other designated area that is not so obvious.

The possibility for violence is always present in gang life and gang members should always be considered to be carrying a weapon. Black gang members participate in unprovoked violence such as hunting down rival gang members in order to initiate a drive-by (A means to settle a past conflict or make their presence known in a new territory or an area in which they want to incorporate). Provoked violence tends to be the most dangerous and fatal; usually, resulting from a bad drug deal, snitching on a member, or being the recipient of a drive-by, color burning or mad-dogging by another gang.

Black gangs are totally anti-authority. This is seen as a way of being loyal to the gang; and the antiestablishment belief that the racism in society has caused the need for people of lower class to join gangs so that they can have a way to be powerful and successful in a world, that from their perspective will not give them a chance to succeed in main stream ways (legitimate means). Often times, members will claim complete ignorance to any knowledge of whom they are associating with, and if not wearing gang apparel, they will deny gang affiliation for fear of incrimination or in an attempt to mislead law enforcement officers. Most families will deny that their child is in a gang, even when presented with hard evidence.

How To Discourage Your Children From Joining Gangs

Discourage your children from hanging around with gang members. Meet your children's friends. Find out who they are, what influence they have on your children and how they and your children spend their free time. If your children choose friends that are mostly from gangs, then your children are probably involved or will become involved in one also.

Occupy your children's free time. Give them responsibilities at home. Get them involved in after-school sports, city/county recreation, dance, the arts, and other busy activities.

Develop good communication with your children. Good communication is open and frequent, and it takes on a positive tone. It allows your children to come to you to discuss any topic or problem. It does not condemn or put down. Good communication allows you to tell your children that you love them.

Spend time with your children. Plan activities that the whole family can enjoy. Spend time alone with your children. Expose them to different places outside of your neighborhood: parks, museums, the beach, the mountains, camping trips, etc.

Do not buy or allow your children to dress in gang style clothing. If your children dress in gang style clothing, they are expressing an interest in gangs and will attract the attention of gangs. If they are in the wrong neighborhood at the wrong time, they could be victimized or killed.

Set limits for your children. At an early age, children need to know what is acceptable and what is unacceptable behavior. Do not allow your children to stay out late or spend a lot of unsupervised time out in the streets.

Do not allow your children to write or practice writing gang names, symbols, or any other gang graffiti on their books, papers, clothes, bodies, walls or any other place.

Teach them respect for others' property. Develop an anti-gang environment in your home. Clearly and continually begin to express to your children at an early age your disapproval of gang activity and of any family members joining a gang.

Learn about gang and drug activity in your community. Learn how gang members dress, how they speak, their behavior and their activities. Attend information meetings, read articles related to gang activity.

Be an informed parent.

SIGNS OF GANG MEMBERSHIP

Factors Contributing to Gang Affiliation

Parents should look for change in behavior and life-style of their child. Contributing factors placing a youth at risk include ineffective parental skills, history of family gang involvement and evidence of parental abuse or neglect. This type of dysfunctional family atmosphere affects the youth's school behavior, leading to poor academic achievement and early antisocial behavior. The at-risk youth now becomes a personal risk. The youth will display low self-esteem and may begin experimenting with drugs and alcohol. As the youth searches for his or her new identity, he usually isolates himself with others experiencing similar social and personal problems. A youth exposed to these influences without guidance has a tendency to accept and legitimize his activities. The youth will flourish and strive in his or her newly found status. This self rewarding status guarantees the youth's indulgence with the gang culture.

Early Warning Signs of Gang Involvement

- Drug use.
- Decline in grades at school.
- Truancy.
- Change of friends.
- Keeping late hours.
- Having large sums of money or expensive items which cannot be explained.

The Definite Signs of Gang Membership

- Gang graffiti in their bedrooms on items such as books, posters, and bedroom walls.
- Wearing gang clothing or colors.
- Using hand signals to communicate with other gang members.
- Having photographs showing gang names, gang slogans, gang insignia , or gang activities.
- Gang tattoos or gang insignia.
- Disclosure of gang membership.
- Witnesses connecting the individual to gang activity.

When Gang Involvement Begins

Gang involvement can begin as early as elementary school. Children as young as 7-8 years have been recruited to work for gangs.

Once in the gang, the child's behavior may change either suddenly or gradually, but it will follow a pattern. To be accepted by the gang, he or she must adopt a defiant attitude toward authority figures. The defiance may be expressed by violent behavior at school or home.

At school, the child lets everyone know of his or her new status. He wears gang clothing and becomes disrespectful toward the teacher and others. The new gang member may fight others to gain a reputation for being "bad." He will pick a victim, but before doing so, he will announce his intentions to friends and others so they can be there to cheer the gang member on and spread the word about his toughness.

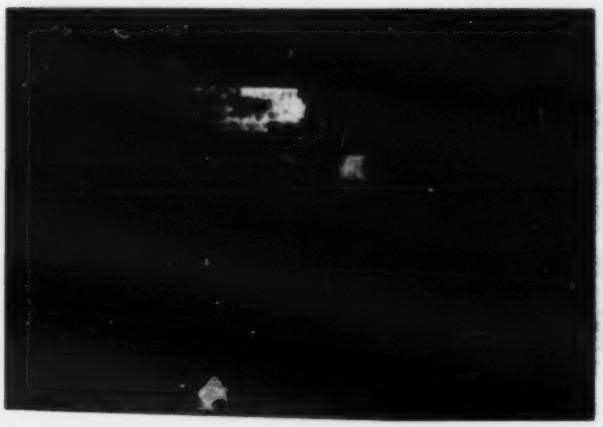
When at home, the new gang member's defiance may or may not manifest itself in violence, depending on the relationship with his or her parents and other family members. However, if the family interferes with the child's gang involvement, there may be repeated confrontations.

Consequences of Gang Membership

Youth that fall prey to gang seduction pay a high price for membership. Initiation rights often involve committing serious criminal, usually violent acts to prove loyalty.

Gang membership almost guarantees one a criminal record, not to mention the physical risks and dangers of violent activities. The physical risks and dangers include not only the gang member but the family members and innocent bystanders as well.

Gangs often depend on the youngest members to carry out the most serious offenses because juveniles receive more lenient treatment and lesser penalties when found guilty of a crime.



Gang membership extracts a terrible toll from the lives of all who are in contact with the member. Families of gang members must be concerned for their own safety as well as that of their son or daughter who is a gang member. Friends who are not involved with gangs are cast aside and soon the youth's only friends are gang members.

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Gang membership, although a temporary phase for some youths, will shape the individual's future. Formal education is discarded because it is counter to the gang's objectives. Gang members who are not killed or seriously injured often develop patterns of alcohol and narcotics abuse, and extensive police records that limit future employment opportunities.

Steps Parents and Educators Should Take

- Talk to your child or teenager. Discuss the consequences of being in a gang.
- Involve your child in family and outside activities.
- Take an active interest in your child's schooling and academic progress.
- Contact government agencies such as the police and juvenile authority. They may have a crime prevention or gang specialist who can give you information.
- Call community based organizations. Many have experience with gang problems and can give you some valuable advice.
- Go to your religious leaders for advice. They may have programs to help neighborhood children.
- Report and remove any graffiti in your neighborhood.

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GRAFFITI

What is Graffiti?

Graffiti is gang advertisement. "Where there is graffiti, there are gangs." It is a newsletter for the streets.

It is commonly scrawled on the walls of public buildings and private properties and is used to make a public announcement to the community about the presence of gangs, their members and their agenda for future criminal activity.

It is important not to ignore graffiti, and, even more importantly, to understand its significance.

Graffiti should not be taken lightly. It lets you know that a gang is trying to take control of your neighborhood.

How Does Graffiti Affect Your Neighborhood?

Graffiti leads to the overall psychological and physical decline of your neighborhood. It is vandalism and destruction of property.

If graffiti is not removed, gang members will interpret this as a sign of low neighborhood pride, and they will spread graffiti to other buildings, properties and streets. Soon, graffiti will be on every block, and gang members will assume that they control your neighborhood.

There will eventually be an increase in gang crime. Property values will decline. Citizens will begin to feel hopeless and afraid to enjoy simple pleasures, such as walking down the street at night.

It is critical that graffiti be removed immediately in order to avoid a cycle of neighborhood decline and apathy.

Why Does Graffiti Exist?

Graffiti is the gang's method of saying, "We are here; this is our territory, and we control it." Gangs use graffiti to intimidate you.

Through graffiti, the gang advertises its name, its members' names, the names of gangs it is warring against and sometimes its proposed murder list. If you see a graffiti name with an "X" over it, that may mean the gang is planning a confrontation that could lead to violence or murder.

Some people think that graffiti is merely an artistic expression. Don't be fooled. Graffiti is not only a malicious destruction of property but it leads to violence and crime.

How You Can Tell If Your Child Is A Graffiti Vandal?

Some indications that your child may be a tagger are:

- Your child stays out until early morning or all night.
- Your child frequently wears a large back pack or baggy pants. Clothing may be paint stained. Packs and loose clothing can be used to hold paint cans or carry graffiti tools.
- Your child sleeps during the day.
- Your child has paint on the tips of his/her fingers.
- Your child has permanent marker stains on his/her hands.
- Your child has graffiti magazines, flyers, a "piece book," or other portfolio of tags.
- Your child possesses large quantities of "My Name Is" stickers or other large stickers used for "sticker tagging."
- Your child is in possession of graffiti paraphernalia such as markers, etching tools, spray paint, bug spray and starch cans. The bug spray cans are used to make tags that will only show up in the rain. (Sharp rocks, metal scribes, awls, or screwdrivers are used as etching tools.)
- Your child is in the age group statistically associated with tagging, ages 12-18 (some times older).
- Your child has graffiti displays or tags on clothing, binders, backpacks, and the underside of the bill of their hat.
- Tags you see on the walls of your neighborhood are seen on your child's walls, books, and clothing.
- Your child is frequently deceitful about his/her activities.
- Your child has quantities of paint in cans but does not have the income to afford it.
- Your child associates with other children with the traits described above.

*Remember that taggers can come from any race, religion, social group, or from any family financial status.

Four Things You Can Do To Combat Graffiti

1. The most effective method to eliminate graffiti is to participate in or establish a graffiti paint-out program on your block. A graffiti paint-out program can be coordinated with your local Neighborhood Watch Program. Many neighborhoods have graffiti paint-out parties. There are several agencies and organizations that will assist your graffiti paint-out program in acquiring supplies and in organizing and conducting paint-out projects.

2. Keep a lookout for graffiti offenders. Pay particular attention to suspicious young adults and teens with aerosol paint containers.

3. If you see someone painting graffiti, it is important to notify the police immediately so that the offender can be caught in the act of committing the offense. Otherwise, graffiti cases are usually difficult to prove.

4. Parents, be on the alert for signs that your children may be contributing to the graffiti problem. Have you noticed aerosol paint containers around your home? Have you noticed paint residue on your child's clothing? Do your children come home at night with paint on their hands? If the answer is yes, you should confront your child immediately.

Be Persistent

It is an exciting, enriching and rewarding experience to take back a community, to clean it up and to watch it grow and prosper. But, it requires a sustained commitment. Frequently, after an area is cleaned and the graffiti removed, the offenders return and scrawl new graffiti in the recently refurbished area. Be prepared to return to that location and to paint out the graffiti as frequently as necessary until the graffiti offenders concede defeat. Eventually, they will give up, and you will have won back your neighborhood.

Feel proud that you are making a positive contribution to save your neighborhood. Remember, the community you beautify is your own.

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APPENDIX I

GANG IDENTIFIERS

Symbols

Signs are chosen for use in graffiti, as tattoos, on clothing, in jewelry, or on paper (such as stars with 6 or 5 points, crowns with pointed or rounded top segments, rabbit heads with straight or bent ears).

Physical Signals

The way arms are folded or fingers are placed in hand signals specifies a gang.

Graffiti

Symbols and words are written on buildings, streets, or property to mark a gang's territory; an opposing gang may write another gang's symbol upside down as a sign of disrespect.

Slogans & Terminology

Phrases and terms with meanings specific for the gang are used by members.

Right/Left Rule

One side is adopted by a gang, and many things are used to identify that side (such as a belt buckle to left or right of center, bandanna hanging from pocket, tied to belt loop, or tied around leg on that side).

Colors

Color combinations are chosen by a gang and often used by members (such as gang colors in friendship beads, clothing, shoes, hair decorations, or earrings).

Clothing

Clothing choices common for gang members include:

Jogging suits - in gang colors
Sweatshirts - hood out over jacket to show gang colors
Hats - direction tilted, color if Civil War type, insignia
"New Wave Star" - sheets of material worn under the hat, hanging down the back, may have colors and/or symbols (also popular with some non-gang members, such as construction workers)
One glove - left or right hand (also popular with nonmembers)
Gym shoes - color of shoe combined with color of laces, two sets of colored laces in both or left or right shoe, one colored lace in one shoe only, tongue turned up in left or right shoe and down in other, one shoe laced only halfway in either right or left shoe
Roller skates - laces or how tied, as with athletic shoes
Pockets - insides dyed with gang colors
Pants legs - rolled up on right or left

Jewelry

Symbolic jewelry used by members include:

Earrings - left or right ear, specific symbol
Rings - specific finger, gang symbol
Necklace, bracelet, or key ring - with symbol or color
Jelly Bracelets - plastic loops in colors and manner worn
Buttons - imprinted with the gang's symbol or slogans

Hairstyles & Fingernails

Hair or nails can signify membership:

Hair - designs cut into the hair, colored beads or barrettes worn in the hair, colored streaks on different sides of the head, pony tail rubber bands of different colors
Combs - in beard or hair, front or back, left or right
Nails - two nails with gang colors on left or right hand

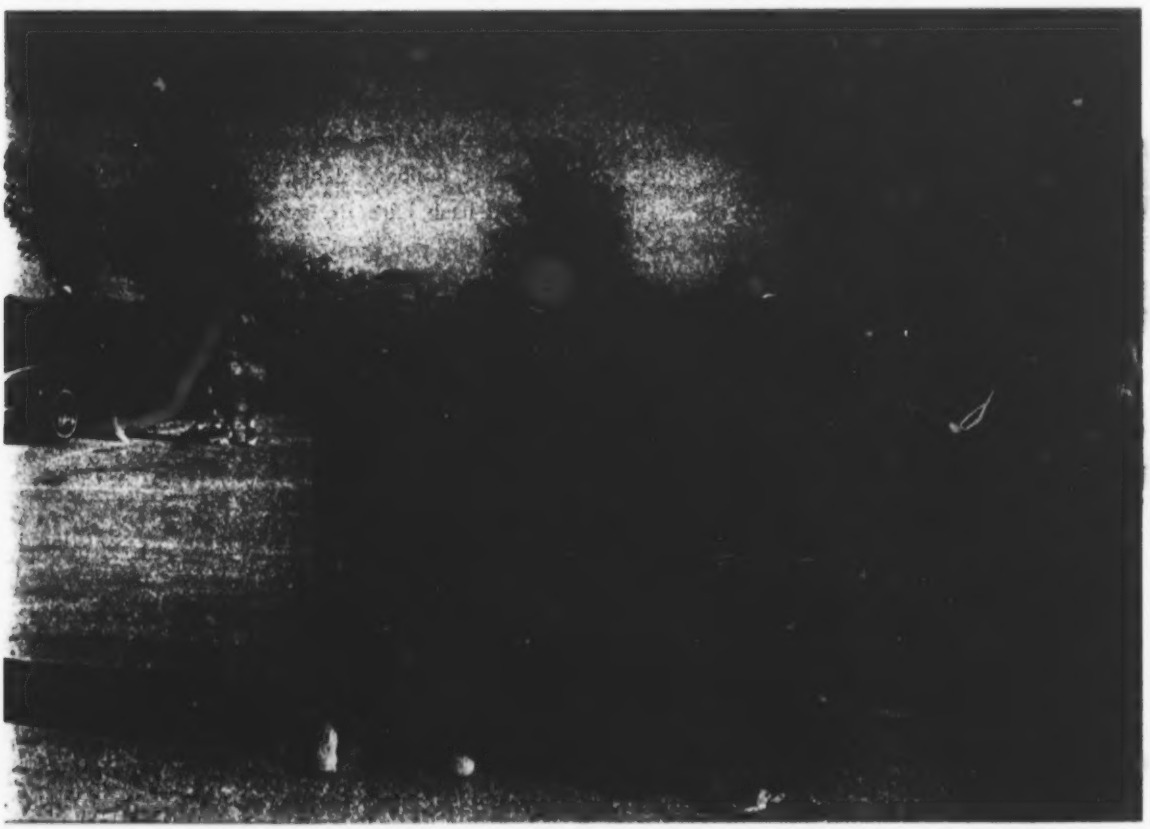
APPENDIX II

GANG SLANG AND TERMINOLOGY

- 5-0: Police
- 13: Same as SUR
- 187: Murder (California penal code)
- 911: Police
- ACE KOOL: Best friend/Backup
- A.K.: AK-47 rifle
- AK/UZI: Semi-auto weapon
- ALL THAT: In possession of all good qualities.
- A.R.: AR15 rifle
- AY YO TRIP: Phrase to seek attention, compare check this out.
- BAG UP: To laugh real hard at something; To be caught or arrested by the police.
- BANG: To fight to kill.
- BANGER: Someone associated with gangs and murder.
- BANGING: Doing gang activity
- BARRIO: Neighborhood
- BASE HEAD: Person hooked on cocaine
- BEING (DOWN) WITH SOMETHING: Favoring something; thinking the same way.
- B.G.: A baby gangster is someone who has not shot anyone yet, as opposed to an OG who has.
- B.K.: Blood killer
- B.K.A.: Blood killer always
- BLACK GANGSTER DISCIPLE: A Chicago based street gang, founded in the late 60, early 70s many experts feel that they are the for-runner to the Crips. Although the BGD's often wear blue, it's not mandatory. The major way to tell members of this gang is by the way they wear their caps with the brim cocked to the right.
- BLOOD: A member of a LA gang whose color is red. Piru/Non-Crip.
- BLOB/SLOB: Crips' derogatory term for a Blood
- BLUNT: See MARIJUANA. Marijuana cigarette, herb stuffed cigar, generally phillies.
- BO/BUD: Marijuana
- BONED OUT: Quit/Chickened out/left
- BOOK: Run/Get away/Leave
- BONE: To have sexual intercourse; penis; one dollar; core, soul; to bone out, as in leaving.
- BOOTY: Not good; lacking; bottom, ass, or getting a piece of ass; biblical, as in pirates booty or treasure. Since booty is stolen treasure, it could be good or bad. Often used in the negative today.
- BOO-YA: Totally DOPE, incredibly fine.
- BREAk: Run/Get away
- BREAKDOWN: Shotgun
- BUCKET: Old, ragged car
- BULLET: One year in county jail
- BUMPER KIT: Girl's butt
- BUMPING TITTIES: Fighting
- BUSTED/POPPED A CAP: Shot at some one
- BUSTER: Youngster trying to be a gang member/Fake gang member
- CAMARADA: Friend
- CAP: A retort/ or, shoot at
- CARNAL: Brother
- CARNALA: Sister
- CHALE: No
- CHAVALA: Little girl
- CHECK IT OUT: Listen to what I have to say
- CHILL OUT: Stop it/Don't do that/Calm down
- CHINGASOS: Fighting.
- CHINGATE: Fuck yourself
- CHIVA: Heroin

- CHIVERO: Heroin addict
- CHOTA: Police
- C.K.: Crip killer
- CLICK UP: To get along well with a homeboy
- CLUCK: Cocaine smoker
- COLORS: Gang colors (on shoes, rag, shoelaces, etc...)
- COLUM: Colombian Marijuana
- CON SOFOS (C\S): Anything you say goes back to you twice as bad
- CONTROZZA CON SOTOAS: Gang hood or gang territory.
- COURTING IN: Initiation into a gang
- COURTING OUT: Initiation out of a gang
- CRAB/E-RICKET: Bloods' derogatory term for Crips
- CRANK: A mentally unstable person
- CRIP: A member of a LA gang whose color is blue; Blue down LA based gang nation
- CRUMBS: Tiny pieces of rock cocaine
- CUZZ: Crip
- DEUCE & DEUCE (DOUBLE DEUCE): 22 caliber weapon
- DIS: Disrespect
- DOG: Term used to address someone, not derogatory
- DOWN FOR THE HOOD: Loyal to the neighborhood
- DROP A DIME: To tell on someone
- EIGHT TRAY: 83
- EL JALE: The job
- ESE!: Hey, man
- ESE VATO: Hey, dude
- FERIA: Money, change.
- FILA: Knife
- FILERO: Knife
- FLAG: Handkerchief in the color of the gang
- FLYING YOUR COLOR: Wearing colors of your gang
- FOLK: Blue down Chicago based gang nation
- FOUR-FIVE: 45 caliber gun
- FRY: Marijuana laced with embalming fluid
- FRONT-IN: Talk about someone, embarrass
- G-RIDE: Stolen vehicle, refers to grand theft auto
- GAT: Gun
- GEEKING: Under the influence of crack cocaine
- HAY SHEN (pronounce Haitian): A popular term for crack cocaine used mainly in the deep south although the term is catching on in the Midwest also. It's called that primarily because the pusher know that the drugs are coming to the Gulf Coast from outside of the country on small boats like the Haitians did.
- JACK: Rob
- JACKIN: Robbery, assault
- JET: Go or leave.
- JURA (JUDA): Police
- KICKIN IT: Taking it easy, relaxing
- KNOCKIN BOOTS: Having sex.
- LA LEY: Police, the Law
- LIT UP: Shot at
- LOC: From locos meaning crazy; crazy muthafuka.
- MAD DOG: Hard stare
- MARIJUANA: Dried leaves and flowering tops of the pistillate hemp plant that are smoked in cigarettes for their intoxicating effect. Also known as bammer, blow, bud, buddha, cannabis, cheeba, chronic, doubage, ganja, grass, green, groove weed, hash, herb, ill, Indo, iszm, Lebanon, Mary Jane (mj), pot, sensi, sess, shake, shit, skunk, stress, tabacci, Thai, wacky and weed.
- MY BAD: My fault.
- NEL: No
- NO DIGGITY: No doubt, without question, for sure, etc.
- ON HIT: Good, slamming, excellent.
- ON SWOLL: The same as on hit.
- O.G.: Original gangster, which you are considered to be when you have killed someone; true; original; someone who is true to the game, who never sold out.
- PEACE OUT: Bye.
- PEACE-N: Not looking for trouble

- PEDO: Fight.
- PEOPLE: Red down Chicago based gang nation.
- PHAT, THAT'S: Incredible; great.
- PIEDRA: Rock cocaine, crack
- PIRU BLOOD: Red down LA based nation.
- POPO: Police
- POR VIDA (P\V): Forever
- PUT IN SOME WORK: Do a shooting
- QUETTE: Gun
- ROCK STAR: Cocaine prostitute or user
- ROOSTER: Piru blood street gang
- RUKA: Gang chick
- SALTY, YOU: Think you know everything.
- SET-TRIPPING: Switching from one gang to another
- SIMON: Yes
- SLINGING ROCK: Selling crack cocaine
- SLOB: A derogatory name blood.
- SODA: Cocaine
- STRAPPED: Carrying a gun
- SUR: South or southside.
- TECATO: Heroin addict
- TRAY-EIGHT: 38 caliber weapon
- VARRIO: Neighborhood
- VETERANO: Veteran gang member, war veteran
- VICE LORDS: Another Chicago based street gang that many consider to be the forerunner to the Bloods. Just as the BDG's wear blue, VLs wear red though not mandatory. Their caps are worn with the brim cocked to the left.
- VICKIE LUO: A derogatory name for a Vice Lord.
- WHADUP DAWG: A way of saying hi to your friend.



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APPENDIX III

WHERE TO CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION OR HELP

Austin Police Department

Emergency:	911
Non-Emergency:	512-480-5000
Gang Hot Line:	512-480-5261
Gang Suppression Unit:	512-406-0060
Graffiti Hot Line:	512-473-4125

Austin Independent School District

A.I.S.D. Campus Police	512-414-1703
A.I.S.D. Crimestoppers	512-499-TIPS (8477)

Counselors

Youth Services Section	512-480-5027
Victim Services	512-480-5037

Neighborhood Centers

905 Bedford	512-480-8014
7517 Cameron Road	512-458-6281
211 Comal	512-472-7258
4700 Loyola	512-926-9932
1416 Montopolis	512-389-3453
539 West Oltorf	512-448-0546
5404 S Pleasant Valley	512-326-1463

Social Services and Hotlines

Health & Human Services	512-326-1464
Family Violence	800-252-5400
Drugs, Alcohol, Suicide Prevention	800-444-9999
Cocaine Hotline	800-874-6104
Hotline To Help	512-472-4357
Teen Help Line	512-328-6860

Educational Materials at the Austin Public Library

Williams, Stanley "Tookie". Gangs and Drugs. Rosen/Power Kids Press 1996.

Soner, Ben. 1954. "Gangs". Life Issues. New York: Benchmark Books, c1996.

Sanders, William B. 1944. "Gangbangs and Drive-bys: Grounded Culture and Juvenile Garg Violence". Social Problems and Social Issues. New York: Aldine De Gruyter, c1994.

Klein, Malcolm W. "The American Street Gang: Its Nature, Prevalence, and Control". Studies in Crime and Public Policy. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

*Please see these topics and other resources at your public library. Education is the key to gang suppression and prevention.

http://www.austingangbusters.org

NOTES